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REPORTS INDICATE PROBABLE SELF-SUFFICIENCY
IN COTTON AND FOODSTUFFS FOR 1950 IN CHINA;
NORTHEAST BUMPER HARVEST PROVOKES WARNING

The Central People's government, is making an attempt to wipe out China's dependence on outside sources for her food and cotton supply. The 1950 production goals were intended to accomplish this. September reports indicated that the production goals of 240 billion catties of food and 13 million market piculs of cotton would be reached and even surpassed. Government reports indicate good possibility of self-sufficiency in these items.

The Northeast Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry warns that the bumper crop in the area brings with it the danger of farmers slackening their efforts. Though Heilungkiang Province has generally been regarded as too cold for successful cotton raising, experimenters are finding it profitable. The use of modern machinery on Northeast farms is producing increases of up to 400 percent in yields of beans.

The 1950 food crop in North China is 4,100,000,000 catties greater than the 1949 crops. The increase over 1949 in cotton production is 1,600,000 piculs. A pumping equipment (for irrigation) factory has been started in T'ai-an, Shantung. Peanut collection was inadequate and 60 percent of the cotton collected for taxes in 1949 was below standard. It is hoped that this experience may prove beneficial. The production of nuts, orchard fruits, and medicinal herbs in Hopeh Province is a very important factor in the total agricultural effort of the province. Some decrease in production is noted.

Agriculture and forestry leaders of Kiangsi Province in conference in October learned that the 1950 paddy rice crop in the province was 861,000 piculs, greater than in 1949. Better cultivation methods, increased use of fertilizer, and extensive flood prevention efforts are credited for the increase. Some 100,000 domestic animals were inoculated with domestically produced serums. Over 3 million trees were planted.

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The China Cotton Yarn and Cloth Company bought 10 million catties of cotton during the latter part of August. Price ratios with foodstuffs have been adjusted. Soviet specialists now in China have been giving valuable advice on planning, techniques, and methods of state-operated farming.

MOBILIZES FARM LABOR TO PRODUCE MORE FOOD IN 1950 -- Peiping, Kuang-ming Jih-pao, 18 Nov 50

According to reports of the Minister of Agriculture, the Prime Minister, and a member of the Economic and Finance Committee of the Central People's government, made at different times during the year (the second report being made as late as the end of September), the nation's 1950 goal of 240 billion catties of grain and 13 million market piculs (1 market picul equals 110.23 pounds) of cotton would be reached and probably surpassed so that the country would be almost self-sufficient in cotton and entirely self-sufficient in food.

Estimates place percentages ratios of production of rice, wheat and other various foodstuffs at 37, 13, and 50 percent, respectively, of the total foodstuff production of 1950. The total 1950 production of all three types of foodstuffs is expected to be 241,313,980,000 catties. This will allow a per-capita unprocessed foodstuff distribution of 503 catties, or 121 catties over the 1949 per-capita consumption, on the basis of a population of 480 million.

Cultivated land (including presently fallow land) throughout China amounts to 1,475,119,447 mou (1 mou equals 1 1/6 acre) or about 10.2 percent of the total land area of the country and slightly over 61 percent of the arable area. Of the cultivated area, 27.1 percent, or 339,776,540 mou, is planted in paddy rice. The remainder is devoted to dry-land crops and amounts to 1,075,342,907 mou. About 90 percent of the cultivated area is devoted to food crops and 10 percent to industrial crops.

During the past several decades, owing to faulty distribution policies, poor transport facilities, venality of big business and lethargy of the authorities, foreign foodstuffs were imported as the only way to relieve an estimated 23-percent shortage of domestic supply. According to data considered reliable, the annual import of foreign foodstuffs for the prewar years 1932-36 was 6,721,317,800 catties.

Such a dependence on outside sources for the essential factors of the people's livelihood without making an attempt at domestic self-sufficiency constitutes a serious threat to national existence.

The Central People's government set 1950 goals at an increase of 10 percent over 1949 production in newly liberated areas, and at overcoming famine conditions in calamity areas.

Statistical goals are as follows: An increase for the whole nation of 10 billion catties of foodstuffs during 1950 as well as industrial self-sufficiency in cotton. Foodstuff production increases were apportioned to the various areas as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>No of Catties</u>
Northeast	2,400,000,000
North China	2,500,000,000
East China (old liberated area)	1,900,000,000
East China (newly liberated area)	1,300,000,000
Central South China	1,000,000,000
Honan Province	650,000,000
Northwest (old liberated area)	50,000,000
Northwest (newly liberated area)	280,000,000

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To implement the program, the government advocates the following measures:
(1) mobilize farm labor on a large scale, (2) increase acreage, (3) increase use of superior seeds, (4) step up breeding of work animals and other domestic animals, (5) increase use of fertilizer, (6) guard against plant diseases and pests, (7) increase facilities for manufacture and repair of agricultural implements, and (8) increase application of scientific methods.

NORTHEAST AGRICULTURE MINISTRY REVEALS PROGRESS AND DANGERS -- Mukden, Tung-pei Jih-pao, 22 Nov 50

The Northeast Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has issued a report indicating that by seed selection, hard work, and increased use of fertilizer and machinery, many areas of the Northeast have enjoyed a fine harvest which they, have already completed.

However, in other areas the very abundance of the harvest has led some farmers to be slack in their harvesting and threshing activities. Many still do not have their crops gathered or threshed, and instead of accelerating their activities they are taking time off to indulge in feasting and drinking, selling work animals, and slaughtering hogs in great numbers.

In other areas the farmers are making the most efficient use of their carts by hauling fertilizer to the fields and bringing in the crops on the return trips, thus hauling a pay load each way.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is planning to hold a conference of mutual aid and model worker groups in January 1951. Local area leaders are urged to select and prepare their delegations soon.

COTTON RAISING INCREASES IN HEILUNGKIANG -- Mukden, Tung-pei Jih-pao, 28 Nov 50

Heilungkiang Province has generally been regarded as having too cold a climate for successful cotton cultivation, but in recent years experimentation has been going on. During 1950, yields of 300 catties of ginned cotton per shang $\sqrt{1}$ shang equals 1 $\frac{1}{6}$ acre are reported. While the total amount raised is still small, the prospects are good for increased acreage because of cotton's value as a cash crop. The above-mentioned cash value is equal to that of the grain yield on about 7 shang.

KIRIN FARMERS FIND MODERN MACHINERY BETTER -- Mukden, Tung-pei Jih-pao, 12 Nov 50

The advantages of using modern farm machinery have been shown in Kirin Province by two neighboring plots of land of 7 mou each, alike in all respects except that modern horse-drawn machinery was employed on one and old-style machinery on the other. The former yielded 3,500 catties of beans, whereas the other field yielded only 768 catties, and the quality of these beans was inferior. The results of these and other demonstrations are rapidly giving Kirin farmers confidence in the new equipment.

NORTH CHINA HARVESTS BUMPER CROPS -- Pao-ting, Hopeh Jih-pao, 30 Nov 50

Peiping, 29 November -- The North China food crop in 1950 amounted to 30,100,000,000 catties which is 4,100,000,000 catties more than the 1949 crop and 91 percent of prewar production.

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The cotton crop in 1950 was 5,100,000 piculs /One picul equals 133.33 pounds/ or 1,600,000 piculs more than the 1949 crop. In the older liberated areas production reached prewar levels.

In addition to good moisture conditions, good leadership, advancement in mutual-aid programs, mass improvement movements in techniques, and active antipest measures are credited for the happy results.

PUMP WORKS STARTED IN TAI-AN -- Tsinan, Ta-chung Jih-pao, 11 Nov 50

Forty percent of the land around Tai-an, Shantung, is irrigated by water from wells. The Tai-an Special Administrative District authorities have constructed a small factory in Tai-an for the manufacture and repair of pumping equipment since irrigation equipment in the area became very run-down during the long war period. The factory opened early in November 1950. It is expected that in addition to repair work, 250 pumps will be manufactured by the end of January 1951.

COTTON AND PEANUTS LARGELY FAIL TO MEET STANDARDS -- Shanghai, Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 6 Oct 50

Tsinan -- Last year at the time of the collections of cotton and peanuts, the Shantung Provincial People's government stressed the production of industrial raw materials and agricultural increases. However, since the work of the propagandists was inefficient and poorly organized, the desired results were not obtained. Some farmers resorted to evasive tactics, and the collections generally did not meet the requirements, resulting in a great loss to the national income. At present, the Shantung Finance Bureau is trying to gain from this experience and is working out a reasonable method for improvement.

According to incomplete data of the Shantung Commerce Bureau, in last year's cotton tax collections, 60% of the total cotton collected failed to meet standards.

FRUIT AND MEDICINAL HERBS PRODUCTION DECLINES IN HOPEH -- Pao-ting Jih-pao, 23 Nov 50

In the mountain districts of Hopeh Province to the west of the Peiping-Hankow Railway and along the Great Wall, the raising of orchard crops and medicinal herbs is quite extensive; and on the plains, a considerable amount of fresh fruit is raised.

This year's harvest was about normal, although the chestnut crop in the T'ang-shan Special District and the hemp crop on the plains were excellent. Hail caused the chestnut crop in Hsing-tai and the persimmon crop in Han-tan to decrease by one third, and the walnut crop in T'ang-shan was down 60 percent. Pear and jujube crops in the T'ang Hsien Special Administrative District were also down, especially the pear crop, which was down generally from 20 to 50 percent.

The market for certain medicinal herbs has not been good, and it has not been possible to persuade the public in the mountain districts to buy on a large scale.

A detailed account follows:

<u>1950 Production</u>	<u>No of Catties</u>
Peach seeds	4,200,000
Apricot seed kernels	1,840,000
Peppers (prewar production over 5,000,000 catties)	1,000,000
Walnuts	970,000

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1950 ProductionNo of catties

Chestnuts	13,800,000
Dried persimmons	52,000,000
Jujube seeds (prewar 600,000 catties)	200,000
Jujubes (prewar 400,000 catties)	200,000
Cauliflower	210,000
Hemp	13,630,000
Black melon seeds	200,000
Red jujubes (normally 47,600,000 catties)	23,060,000
Haw berries	2,000,000

* estimated

Compiling data on fresh fruit production is difficult, due to the large number of varieties. The total production of apples, plums, and pears is estimated to have been 120 million catties this year. Plums are raised on a very large scale in the T'sang Hsien Special Administrative District, and also extensively in Wei Hsien, the T'ang-shan Special Administrative District, and in Ting Hsien. This year, T'sang Hsien alone was able to produce over 2,100,000 catties.

The marketing of produce from the plains areas, such as cauliflower and hemp, has not been any great problem, but the demand for jujubes and haw berries from the mountain districts has not been large. Domestic black jujubes cannot be marketed, although they can be used for making wine. Other orchard products generally have a good market, and the export of peach seeds has been especially profitable. The market for peppers is large, and a competitive market has developed between several areas. Figures on completed transactions in Hopeh (including both private and public enterprises) are as follows:

Apricot Seed Kernels: 2,240,000 catties

The above total is greater than the total production of the province, the additional amount having been imported from the Northeast. There was not a large amount in stock among the general public.

Peppers: 540,000 catties

The above was one half the total production.

Peach Seeds: 490,000 catties

For the first time this item showed an improvement in the market.

Chestnuts: 1,000,000 catties

Rather large commercial shipments, possibly topping one million catties.

Jujubes: 3,490,000 catties

Private commercial shipments have already topped 3,490,000 catties of T'sang Hsien Special Administrative District jujubes.

The marketing of fresh fruit is handled entirely by private business, a co-operative in each district handling a share. The T'sang Hsien Special Administrative District alone has already shipped 4,390,000 catties of plums. Plums from the south are not available to the public at present.

The area producing the largest amount of herbs and medicinal products in the plain regions is An-kuo Hsien, which is able to produce 565,000 catties of various kinds of medicinal herbs.

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The amount of products from mountain areas is even greater, a total of over 17,200,000 catties of various products having been produced this year (statistics incomplete). Production of some items exceeded demand, while demand exceeded production for others.

On the market, plains products fared well generally, but mountain products did not bring such good prices. So far, the China Native Products Company has marketed 2,350,000 catties, cooperatives have marketed 500,000 catties, and private commercial firms 700,000 catties, making a total of 3,550,000 catties. This figure represents 20 percent of the total production, the remaining 80 percent to be marketed.

KIANGSI HOLDS AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE -- Shanghai, Ta Kung Pao, 11 Nov 50

Nan-ch'ang -- A province-wide conference of agricultural and forestry leaders met 26 October 1950 in Nan-ch'ang under the leadership of the provincial agriculture and forestry department to review the year's progress and discuss a 3-year agriculture and forestry plan for the future.

It was reported that intensive cultivation and increased use of fertilizer had resulted in an increase of 861,000 piculs in the 1950 paddy rice crop which was 112 percent over the goal. The amount of wild land put under cultivation totaled 431,264 mou.

Nearly 3 million mou of land that was flooded in 1949 was protected in 1950 by extensive conservancy work. Voluntary repairs of ordinary irrigation projects by the people benefited 1,934,000 mou of land and added 386,800 piculs to the rice production.

Improved rice seed and US cottonseed were responsible for considerable increases in the production of these items. In addition, 1,860,000 cubic centimeters of serums for inoculation of domestic animals were produced and 100,000 animals were inoculated. Also, 10,461,217 nursery seedlings were started and 3,237,001 saplings set out.

The conference set as goals: to promote winter cultivation and planting; to repair irrigation facilities, at local expense for small projects but with loans from provincial sources for larger projects; to increase the scope of the afforestation program; and to supply leadership in raising the living standards of the people.

HUNAN TEA PRODUCTION UP IN 1950 -- Shanghai, Ta Kung Pao, 11 Nov 50

Chang-sha -- In 1950, the Hunan Province tea crop amounted to 380,000 piculs, an increase of 99 percent over the 1949 production.

COTTON YARN AND CLOTH COMPANY BUYS HUGE COTTON CROP -- Tientsin, Chin-pu Jih-pao, 15 Sep 50

Peiping, 13 September (Hsin-hua) -- Cotton has come on the market early this year, and during the latter part of August the China Cotton Yarn and Cloth Company bought 10 million catties, a great deal more than the original plan called for.

Prices have been adjusted during September to bring the ratio from 12-14 catties of millet and 10 of rice for one catty of cotton to 10 catties of millet and 8 of rice to one catty of cotton.

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SOVIET SPECIALISTS AID CHINESE AGRICULTURE -- Shanghai, Ta Kung Pao, 11 Nov 50

Soviet agricultural specialists have rendered valuable aid in accomplishing the good results attained in Chinese agriculture in 1950. They have given valuable advice in: (1) planning agricultural economy, (2) in practical and theoretical techniques, and (3) in development of all phases of state-operated farming.

During the national agricultural conference called late in 1949 by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Central People's government to plan 1950 agricultural activities, the Soviet specialists urged development of cotton cultivation and promotion of production of tung oil and vegetable oil, the latter to the point of attaining world prominence. They also gave valuable advice on crop rotation, seed selection, mechanization, and improvement of farm animals.

After inspection tours in China in the spring of 1950, they offered much advice on agricultural water conservancy.

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